

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for representing non-structured features in a ML document, comprising:
 - determining a start tag location;
 - determining an end tag location; and
 - placing a start tag at the start tag location and an end tag at the end tag location, wherein the start tag and the end tag may span other tags while maintaining a well formed ML document.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the start tag and the end tag include an identifier that may be used to indicate an association between the start tag and the end tag.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein at least one of the start tag and the end tag includes an identifier.
4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the ML document is an XML document.
5. The method of Claim 3, wherein the start tag and the end tag are empty tags.
6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the start tag and the end tag are bookmarks.
7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising, using the bookmarks to create an index a set of documents.

8. The method of Claim 5, wherein the start tag and the end tag may be used for at least one function selected from a set comprising: annotating, proofing, range protection, commenting, and permissions.

9. A computer-readable medium for representing non-structured features in a ML document, comprising:

determining locations for a start tag and an end tag; and

placing the start tag and the end tag at the determined locations, wherein the start tag and the end tag may span other tags within the ML document while adhering to a well formed ML rule.

10. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein at least one of the start tag and the end tag includes an identifier that is used to indicate an association between the start tag and the end tag.

11. The computer-readable medium of Claim 10, wherein the ML document is an XML document.

12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the start tag and the end tag are empty tags.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the start tag and the end tag are bookmarks.

14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, further comprising, using the bookmarks to create an index a set of documents.

15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the start tag and the end tag may be used for at least one function selected from a set comprising: annotating, bookmarking, proofing, range protection, commenting, and permissions.

16. A system for representing non-structured features in a ML document, comprising:

an application that is configured to:

parse a word-processor document;

determining locations for a start tag and an end tag; and

placing the start tag and the end tag at the determined locations,

wherein the start tag and the end tag may span other tags within the ML document while adhering to a well formed ML rule;

output the ML document that may be interpreted by applications that understand a ML; and

a validation engine configured to validate the ML document.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the start tag and the end tag includes an identifier that indicates an association between the start tag and the end tag.

18. The system of Claim 10, wherein the ML document is an XML document.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the start tag and the end tag may be used for at least one function selected from a set comprising: annotating, bookmarking, proofing, range protection, commenting, and permissions.